

HOUSE RESOLUTION 7004

By Moon

A RESOLUTION to recognize Piney Grove Missionary Baptist Church on the occasion of its 150th anniversary.

WHEREAS, the churches of this nation have been an integral part of our history as a people and have had an unparalleled impact on forming and maintaining a stable and just society; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we should recognize those venerable religious institutions and their congregations that, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, enrich the lives of people in their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such dynamic and historic community of faith is Piney Grove Missionary Baptist Church, whose members are celebrating the church's 150th anniversary this year; and

WHEREAS, around the year 1871, Reverend James R. Colter, among others, held a meeting in a widow's home near Black's Blockhouse Fort, which resulted in a great revival; desiring a regular service, the congregants and leaders erected a brush shed before relocating a government stillhouse from nearby; and

WHEREAS, on September 5, 1873, interested parties met at the Piney Grove log school, also known as Grindstaff School, and organized the Piney Grove Missionary Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, led by pioneer minister P.B. McCarroll and Brother Colter, thirty-nine charter members selected Brother Colter as pastor of Piney Grove Missionary Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, following efforts to locate land, a committee meeting at Blockhouse Store resulted in Samuel McCampbell giving the church one acre of land for its first owned property;

logs were cut and hauled to the sawmill for construction of the one-room building, which was located two miles from its original site; and

WHEREAS, on November 8, 1891, the *Maryville Times* published a story by Reverend James V. Iddins regarding the dedication of the church's first building; the service was led by Reverend G.W. Brewer and R.L. Jenkins; and

WHEREAS, construction of the present-day sanctuary began in February 1960 and was completed on Christmas Day the same year; since its inception, the church has seen thirty pastors serve its congregations; and

WHEREAS, affiliated with the Chilhowee Baptist Association, the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention, the Piney Grove Missionary Baptist Church has contributed a large percentage of tithes and offerings to state, North American, and international missions for several decades; and

WHEREAS, Piney Grove Missionary Baptist Church has stood on the rock-solid foundation of Christian belief, service, and love for 150 years, serving as a bastion of faith and outreach to the people of its community; and

WHEREAS, thanks to its faith, leadership, and strength of its members, the church has persevered and continues to grow; it is truly one of the great religious institutions and catalysts for positive spiritual change in our State and nation, and the members of this exceptional congregation should be appropriately honored for their exemplary service to their fellow Christians and to the good people of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we join in the celebration of the 150th anniversary of Piney Grove Missionary Baptist Church, thank the good people of its congregation and their ministers for their notable service to their Lord and the State of Tennessee, and wish them much continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.